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Wednesday, November 28, 2018 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: Metro

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ISTOCK

4 THINGS TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

There are quite a few cultural differences between Philadelphia and Lancaster County 100 miles to the west. Among them is the agricultural, predominantly-Mennonite lifestyle in Lancaster, compared to the hustle and bustle of city life in Philly. But child-rearing is also quite different — and when two Philadelphia twins removed from their home were placed in foster care in Lancaster, they were subjected to spankings that led their father to eventually sue for damages. A jury awarded the kids $4.5 million on Thanksgiving Eve, but the defendants say it wasn't abuse, just corporal punishment that Lancaster folks would consider acceptable. You decide — read it all inside and on **metrophilly.us.**

1 US CABLE TV AND NETFLIX DIAL UP CHRISTMAS FARE

"Pour the eggnog, decorate the tree and turn on the TV. Like glinting tinsel in a sea of dark TV dramas, the number of new, feel-good Christmas movies offered by U.S. cable TV networks and the global streaming service Netflix is off the charts. Among roughly five dozen original offerings this season are "Hometown Christmas," "Christmas at Graceland," "My Christmas Inn" and "A Shoe Addict's Christmas." Demand was so high, many had to be filmed in summer heat, with fake snow and digital winter effects. "Everything has blown up. I can't believe how much Christmas stuff is going on this year and next year," said Andrew Gernhard, whose company, Synthetic Cinema International, has produced movies for the Hallmark and Lifetime cable channels and others. These types of films, which promise snow, mistletoe and a love story, used to be largely limited to networks like Hallmark and Lifetime. This year, Netflix is releasing three new Christmas romances, Walt Disney Co.'s Freeform network is airing three of its own, and the TV One channel has two on its schedule.

2 MANAFORT DENIES MEET WITH WIKILEAKS' ASSANGE

President Donald Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, staunchly denied ever meeting with Wikileaks founder Julian Assange on Tuesday, after the Guardian newspaper published a story alleging the two met at least three times, including once in 2016. "This story is totally false and deliberately libelous. I have never met Julian Assange or anyone connected to him," Manafort said through a spokesman. "We are considering all legal options against the Guardian, who proceeded with this story even after being notified by my representatives that it was false." Manafort's statement came one day after Special Counsel Robert Mueller's office told a federal judge that Manafort had breached his plea agreement by lying repeatedly to the FBI despite pledging to cooperate with the probe. In the same court filing, Manafort denied lying, but both sides agreed the court should move ahead and set a date to sentence him for his crimes. Prosecutors said they plan to file a report before sentencing laying out the alleged crimes Manafort committed after pleading guilty in September.

3 BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE V&A'S CAST COURTS RE-OPENING

A conservator works on one half of a cast of the Roman "Trajan's Column" memorial at a press preview of the Cast Courts at the Victoria and Albert Museum on Nov. 27, 2018, in London, England. The re-launched gallery area exhibits casts and reproductions of important historical artifacts from around the world and opens to the public on Dec. 1, 2018.

GETTY IMAGES

4 CREATOR OF 'SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS' DEAD AT 57

"SpongeBob SquarePants" creator Stephen Hillenburg, who brought the zany cartoon marine underworld of Bikini Bottom to television, the movies and the stage, has died at the age of 57, the Nickelodeon television network said on Tuesday. Hillenburg had said last year that he was suffering from the neurodegenerative disease ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He died on Monday. "We are incredibly saddened by the news that Steve Hillenburg has passed away following a battle with ALS," the network said in a statement. "He was a beloved friend and long-time creative partner to everyone at Nickelodeon, and our hearts go out to his entire family." Hillenburg was a marine biology teacher in Southern California when he started creating sea creatures as teaching tools. The first episode of "SpongeBob SquarePants," featuring a cheerful yellow sea sponge who lived in an underwater pineapple, aired on U.S. television in May 1999. The series went on to win multiple awards and be made into two Hollywood movies and a Broadway musical. The television series has aired in more than 200 nations and has been translated into more than 60 languages.

TONY'S METRO MAGIC 2018

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COURTESY OF CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Jury awards $4.5 million to Philly twins for spankings in Lancaster foster home

Philly public defender's office found liable for spankings given to the children by foster parents.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A Court of Common Pleas jury recently awarded a $4.5 million verdict in the case of two young twins from Philadelphia who were allegedly spanked over three years while living in a foster home in a predominantly Mennonite section of Lancaster County.

"This is a landmark decision," said attorney Nadeem Bezar, of Kline & Specter, P.C., who filed the lawsuit on behalf of the twins and their biological father. "Innocence lost is a tragedy. These kids were just beaten. They were beaten under the guise of punishment."

In its verdict reached on Nov. 21, the jury split liability between Bethanna, the foster care agency that placed the then-3-year-old twins in the home (20 percent); the foster parents, Wayne and Rosella Keeny (20 and five percent, respectively); and the Defender Association of Philadelphia, whose child advocate was representing the children in court (55 percent).

Bezar said that the abuse of the twins, now 8, included being regularly laid on top of a freezer in the basement and spanked for three years by their foster parents, by hand or with implements like a ruler or plastic coat hanger.

$4.5M

A Court of Common Pleas jury recently awarded a $4.5 million verdict in the case of two young twins from Philadelphia.

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But some defendants still dispute the jury's decision of the facts, and the Defender Association is planning to appeal the verdict.

Matthew Menges, an attorney with Trinity Law firm who represented the Keenys, said that the spankings his clients admitted to would likely be considered culturally acceptable in the mostly-Mennonite Lancaster County community they inhabit.

"This is not something that was done in anger or frustration," Menges said. "They talked with the children about the behavior that led to the spanking, they administered the spanking, [and] when they were done they sat down again and talked with the children. This is not taking kids into a dungeon basement and stringing them up to beat them."

"They talked with the children about the behavior that led to the spanking... This is not taking kids into a dungeon basement and stringing them up to beat them."

Matthew Menges, attorney with Trinity Law Firm

After the children, identified in court as Z1 and Z2, were reunited with their biological father in 2015, he learned they had experienced corporal punishment and contacted authorities. In 2016, charges of unlawful contact and endangering the welfare of a child were filed against the Keenys, while the Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency investigated the allegations. But the charges were withdrawn later that year, court records show.

Bezar countered that the Keenys never gave a clear reason for why the then-3-year-old twins needed to be spanked — and said the withdrawal of the charges does not prove the children were not abused.

"They weren't acquitted, the charges were withdrawn, and that might have been because the children were so intimidated," he said. "Kids in alternate placement settings, they're so scared of uproot, they just want stability, they're willing to stay silent and be abused before they're willing to load up all their stuff into a garbage bag and be transported somewhere else."

The Defenders Association of Philadelphia strongly disputed being assigned 55 percent of the liability, more than half the verdict.

"We believe that the facts were manipulated to fit a narrative that was neither complete nor correct," Chief Defender Keir Bradford-Grey said in a statement. "While I was not yet serving as Chief Defender at the time of or representation, after exploring the facts of the case, I know our child advocates who represented the young children from 2011-2014 did not breach their duty of care. The foster parents have been cleared by all investigative agents of sexual abuse, but this unfortunately was not explored in the course of the trial. Our child advocate unit works hard to provide the best representation to youth in the dependent system and we will continue to do so."

Bezar said their child advocate representing the foster kids should have "followed up" on information presented in a 2014 dependency hearing that the female child had been sitting on the floor with no underwear on in front of her foster father.

Bethanna entered into a settlement prior to trial without acknowledging any negligence. "Bethanna reached a confidential settlement with plaintiffs prior to trial," said their attorney, Christopher P. Coval.

Menges said his clients have not yet decided whether to appeal the verdict, but argued that the case comes down to differing views of corporal punishment.

"It's a difference in culture," Menges said. "I think if the case had taken place in Lancaster County, I don't think the child would have been awarded anything, because I think the use of corporal punishment, of spanking, is much more accepted in Lancaster County than in Philadelphia."

But to Bezar, who frequently handles cases related to abuses within the foster care system around Philadelphia and has won several large settlements for clients, the children were clearly trapped in an abusive situation.

"You take a Philly kid away from home," he said. "They're far away, they're not near their family, and anytime there's an opportunity to connect, it might be lost because they're 100 miles away in Lancaster County. Add to that an environment where corporal punishment and physically disciplining kids is an accepted practice, and you create a bad situation."

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Faulty alert caused shooter scare at Walter Reed hospital: US Navy

Alert lacked the words "drill" or "exercise," prompting real-life response.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A false report of an active shooter at the Walter Reed military hospital outside Washington led people to take shelter on Tuesday, before an all-clear was given and the U.S. Navy confirmed the incident was related to a drill.

In preparations for the drill, a mass notification alert was mistakenly sent to people at Naval Support Activity Bethesda, the military base that houses the medical center, the Navy said in a statement.

The notification did not contain the words "exercise" or "drill," which prompted workers to respond as if an active shooter actually was at the facility, the Navy said.

Police swept at least one building after receiving the report about a possible shooter around 2:23 p.m.

People at the medical center, including a U.S. congressman, sheltered in place for at least 30 minutes, while the base urged others to find cover inside vehicles or buildings as a precaution.

"I am currently at Walter Reed Medical in Bethesda where we've been told there is an active shooter," U.S. Representative Dutch Ruppersberger wrote on Twitter at one point. "I am currently safe in a conference room w/ approx 40 others."

The base gave the "all clear" around 3:20 p.m. It said in a Facebook post that no active shooter was found.

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is the largest joint military hospital in the United States, specializing in care for veterans of the U.S. Navy and Army and their families. It provides care to more than 1 million beneficiaries per year. REUTERS

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Mysterious illness paralyzing children on the rise in US

GETTY IMAGES

A mysterious disease called acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) has affected 116 people in 31 states this year, federal health officials said Monday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Monday that 2018 is on track for a record-high diagnosis rate for the little-understood syndrome.

The syndrome is a paralyzing disease, causing children to lose the ability to move their face, neck, back, arms or legs. The symptoms also include drooping face and eyelids, difficulty moving eyes and swallowing, and slurred speech. In severe cases, patients have had trouble breathing because of weak muscles.

About 120 cases were confirmed in 2014, the first time such a wave occurred. Another 149 were reported in 2016. The illnesses have spiked in September each year and then tailed off significantly by November, but this year the number has kept growing, the CDC reported.

No one has died from AFM this year, but CDC officials said that at least half the patients do not recover from the paralysis and some have serious complications.

The CDC still doesn't have a confirmed cause of AFM, which is marked by muscle weakness or paralysis caused by damage to the spinal cord, though the damage is the type often caused by viruses.

Although the majority of patients have not tested positive for one specific virus, a family of viruses called enteroviruses is a prime suspect.

Parents and even some scientists have criticized the agency for not solving the riddle.

"I understand why parents are frustrated. I'm frustrated and I want answers, too," said the CDC's Dr. Nancy Messonnier, who is overseeing the agency's outbreak investigation.

If you notice a sudden onset of arm or leg weakness and loss of muscle tone and reflexes following a fever in your child, seek medical care immediately. ANNA HARSTEDT

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GETTY IMAGES

Retail scams to be aware of while shopping for the holidays

'Tis the season for good deals and potential fraud.

ANNA HARSTEDT
letters@metro.us

The holidays are a prime time for shopping and finding good deals, but also the perfect opportunity for bad actors to scam customers.

Amid the holiday-shopping bustle, hundreds of apps and websites will be trying to steal personal data and credit card information, according to a new report from RiskIQ, a cybersecurity company.

Scammers create fake landing pages with realistic branding often offering a big amount of discount to attract customers, especially around big events and holidays, with the goal of collecting a customer's personal data.

Before this year's Black Friday, a scam circulated on the messaging app WhatsApp that promised a 99 percent discount on Amazon.com purchases, resulting in thousands of customers having their credit card information stolen — one of the many scams that circulated online ahead of the popular shopping day.

More people are using their phones instead of a computer to shop online. This year, 40 percent of Black Friday sales were made via a smartphone, according to OuterBox.

Shopping on a smartphone may seem effective and simple, but it also puts the customer at a much higher risk of being scammed.

"On a smartphone, compared to on a computer, it's much harder to spot a scam since mobile browsers have a much shorter [URL] address field and therefore may not see the full URL," the RiskIQ study reads.

"If a random website is offering an 80 percent off deal on the toy of the season, there's a good chance they're just looking to take your credit card information," the report reads.

To avoid visiting bad websites, you should look for "https" in the retailer's website, rather than "http." (The "s" stands for secure and means all communications between your browser and the website are encrypted.)

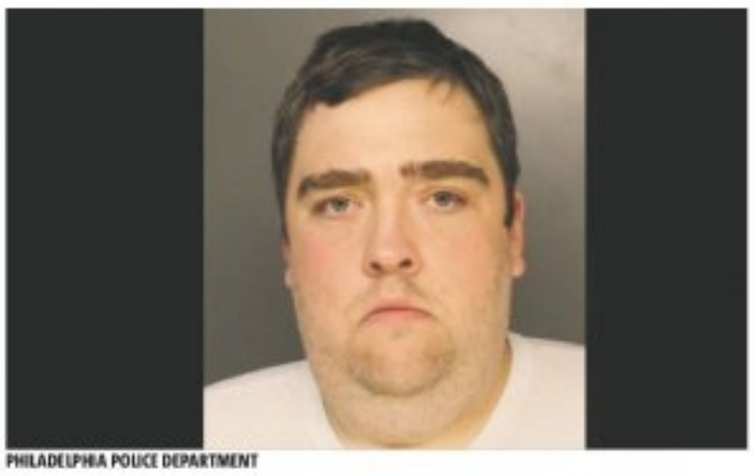
"If a random website is offering an 80 percent off deal on the toy of the season, there's a good chance they're just looking to take your credit card information."

RiskIQ study

Avoid using public Wi-Fi when shopping online. When using public Wi-Fi, anyone with computer acumen can view what you are browsing and steal your personal information.

Using a credit card instead of a debit card limits your liability since the money isn't taken directly out of a checking account.

Consider signing up for free scam alerts from the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/scams, which tracks spear-phishing scams, charity fraud, credit report scams and more.



PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Philly Antifa member in custody following attacks against US Marine reservists

As hundreds of leftist-aligned protesters gathered outside a small rally held by a conservative/libertarian group in Old City on Nov. 15, blocks away from the main event, a group of U.S. Marine Reservists alleged that they were attacked and robbed by a group of males who called them "Nazis" and "white supremacists."

Now one suspect, Tom Keenan, 33, of Mt. Airy, a purported member of Philly's Antifa organization whose involvement in militant counter-protests against white supremacists dates back to at least 2007, is facing charges of aggravated assault, terroristic threats and criminal conspiracy for the incident, the Philadelphia Police Department announced on Nov. 26. Keenan reportedly turned himself into police custody on Nov. 20, a day after the department posted video of him and two other suspects online. The investigation remains ongoing and the other suspects have not yet been identified.

No details have been released about the U.S. Marine reservists who were allegedly attacked and robbed around 3:20 p.m. on Nov. 17 on Front Street near Chestnut, just a few blocks from the "We the People" rally and protest. Police have not identified how many victims were attacked and robbed or any other information about the complainants.

Police say that on Nov. 19, the victims alleged that they "were approached by numerous males and females. The group of suspects called the complainants 'Nazis,' and 'White Supremacists.' The suspects then maced the complainants, and then proceeded to punch and kick them. During the assault, one of the complainants had his cellphone stolen from him by one of the male suspects. The offenders then fled."

The complainants allegedly identified Keenan and two other males on video recorded during the protest of the "We the People" rally. No information was immediately available about whether the Marine Reservists who were allegedly attacked had attended the rally or protest.

Philadelphia Magazine identified Keenan as having been associated with Antifa-related activities for years, first as one of the so-called "LOVE Park 4" arrested in 2007. The group was allegedly protesting a Ku Klux Klan rally when they got into a physical altercation with people in attendance who were later revealed to be undercover law enforcement officers. He pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, a summary offense, according to court records.

The "We the People" rally went nearly viral online as reports spread that it was organized by the self-identified "Western chauvinist" Trump-supporting Proud Boys, who have sparred with Antifa and leftist protesters at rallies around the country and in New York City. But it was actually organized by the "Sports, Politics and Beer II" Facebook group.

Keenan was released on bail. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6.

The Philly chapter of Antifa could not be reached for comment.

SAM NEWHOUSE

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EVERYBODY DESERVES A COMEBACK STORY — JUST ASK AMANDA BYNES.

Isn't it strange that we as a society tend to root for people in the limelight to fall from grace, yet we always love a comeback story? Amanda Bynes has certainly been on both sides of this seesaw-like paradigm. Back at the tail end of her time as Hollywood's next big thing, she had been derided in the press and cast out of the industry for what many considered to be outlandish behavior. But now, after seeking help for her mental health and remaining sober for four years, she has been profiled in a fascinating and enlightening article in Paper magazine. All signs lead to a comeback for Bynes, and if anyone deserves it, it's her. As one of the most gifted comedic actresses of her generation, it's easy to imagine the kind of big-budget Hollywood franchises that could have been built around her. Congratulations, Amanda. Your comeback story is something to rejoice about.

GETTY IMAGES

ISTOCK

READER WRITE-INS:

WHAT HAPPENED TO TRYING?

Why does everyone say "so fun?" Shouldn't it be "so much fun?" It seems as though the more people use incorrect grammar, the more acceptable it becomes. I hear people speaking incorrectly not only in public, but on TV as well. I'm not a grammar expert, but just because a celebrity speaks incorrectly doesn't mean the rest of us should go down the same road.

Maybe grammar is headed down the same avenue as fashion. Once people started wearing sweatsuits as everyday attire, fashion seemed to take a turn toward being more "relaxed." In general, the public seems very lax in both fashion and grammar.

Maybe I just need to get with the times and be more "chill."

— **Bernadette**, *Metro US reader*

VENT TO US!
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♈ **Aries** The changes you make should reflect what you can afford as well as how you take care of business.

♉ **Taurus** Put some muscle behind your plans. Don't wait for someone else to jump in and take charge. Set your plans in motion.

♊ **Gemini** You'll have plenty of ideas, but before you get started, make sure you have accurate information and that your plans are realistic.

♋ **Cancer** Do your own thing. Don't feel the need to follow someone else. Trust in your ability and use experience and logic.

♌ **Leo** A change will do you good. Make plans to get together with friends or attend an event that will encourage networking.

♍ **Virgo** Pay close attention to what's going on at home and with anyone you are in a close relationship with.

♎ **Libra** Practice what you preach. Someone will give you something to think about if you don't live up to the standards you expect.

♏ **Scorpio** Keep the momentum going until you are happy with the results you get. It's up to you to follow through with your plans.

♐ **Sagittarius** Consider your budget before you spend money on end-of-year festivities or buy gifts for loved ones.

♑ **Capricorn** Check the facts before you share information with others. Someone will pass along information that could make you look bad.

♒ **Aquarius** An opportunity should not be ignored. Put everything aside and look at the possibilities. Get what you want in writing.

♓ **Pisces** Don't let anger take the reins. Think matters through and offer reasonable suggestions. Do what's right, not what's popular.

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LIFESTYLE

Conan O'Brien heads to Japan

The talk show host takes his successful travel series to Japan's "Conan Town."

ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

Conan O'Brien heads to Japan with his latest special. GETTY IMAGES

As crowded as the television landscape is these days, the sheer number of new, canceled and ongoing late-night programs is quite high by its own right. Broadcast and cable staples like "The Tonight Show," "The Late Show" and "The Daily Show" remain, though challengers new and old like "Full Frontal," "Patriot Act" and "The Break" will occasionally make a play for viewers' eyeballs.

And then there's "Conan," Conan O'Brien's self-titled TBS successor to his days at NBC.

The former "Late Night" and "Tonight Show" host's program will transition to a half-hour format next year in order to compete with this very crowded field, but that doesn't mean he no longer has it. On the contrary, O'Brien has proved himself time and again in what has become one of late night television's longest careers. As proof of this, consider his ongoing "Conan Without Borders" series, which sees him, cohost Andy Richter and the rest of the gang traveling all over the world.

The latest installment, "Conan Without Borders: Japan," was announced back in late August when the comedian realized that he shared a name with the popular Japanese manga series "Case Closed," otherwise known as "Detective Conan." This sparked a pseudo-feud with the mayor of Hakuei Town, otherwise known as "Conan Town" for the manga series, and became the comedic fuel for the show's latest "Conan Without Borders" trip.

The journey itself actually happened back in early September and was covered heavily by the Japanese press. Even so, that doesn't mean that all the best parts of O'Brien and company's trip were spoiled ahead of the special's broadcast this week. This doesn't necessarily mean that "Conan" was able to address every single one of Hakuei mayor Akio Matsumoto's requests (having his face carved into Mount Rushmore, getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and receiving 15,000 American hamburgers), but that doesn't mean he didn't try.

Besides, judging by the show's previous televised trips to countries like Mexico, Haiti and Italy, its time in Japan will surely rank fairly high on the list of O'Brien's accomplishments in late night comedy… even if no hamburgers were actually involved.

"Conan Without Borders: Japan" premieres tonight at 10 p.m. on TBS.

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Happy *shopping-days*

The Handmaid Holiday Market is at PAFA this weekend.

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It's that time of year again, shopping season. Whether you are looking for a gift for your new boyfriend, picky mother-in-law, neighbor, friend or maybe even for yourself, you are in luck. The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts is teaming up with Clover Market to present the Handmade Holiday Market. PAFA is the one-stop shop for all of your holiday needs this season.

This indoor market features 75 curated vendors that are offering high-quality, beautifully presented products that make the ultimate holiday gifts. This year is a bit different from prior Handmade Holiday Markets; a select few vendors will be featuring vintage goods and packaged foods, adding to the already-eclectic and unique mix of the event.

Some vendors at the market include Anethum Jewelry, Bee Hobby Craft, Carolyn Powers Designs, East Coast Alchemy, Flour & Oats Artisan Cookies, Gypsy Fish, Kabyco Designs, Lodestone Candles of Kent & Co, Organic Imprints Studio, Pocketbook Vintage and much more. All items are handled with care; any purchase will be a true holiday treat wrapped up in a bow.

Shopping can be tiresome, and for that reason, the market will have plenty of delicious refueling options available. A festive cash bar will be open in the Market area, and there will be tasty treats for purchase from the Stephen Starr cafe Tableau on the first floor of the museum.

A little festive bonus: the first 150 shoppers at the Handmade Holiday Market will receive a tote bag to hold all of their valuable purchases. There will also be interactive holiday and winter-themed make and takes for all ages provided by The Handwork Studio, The Waldorf School of Philadelphia and the Black Hound Clay Studio. Face-painting for little tykes will also be available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on the second day of the event.

The event is free and open to the public, but there is a "pay as you wish" option with a $5 suggested donation to PAFA Education Pro-

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gramming. However, admission to the museum exhibits is also included with entry to the market. Tickets are usually $15 a person, so visiting the market gives guests a great chance to also experience all the exciting exhibits that PAFA has to offer.

The Handmaid Holiday Market is conveniently located right by City Hall and other festive Philly holiday events such as Christmas Village, the Comcast Light Show and the Rothman Ice Rink as well. Parking for the event will be available at the **Gateway Parking Garage** *(1540 Vine St., entry on Spring St, $7)* and the **Family Court Garage** *(1503 Arch St., $8-$11)*. Parking will also be 10% off at the Parkway Corporation Garage next to the museum *(Broad and Race)* and at the outdoor lot at 15th and Cherry behind the museum. Guests just need to get their ticket validated by 5 PM at the front doors of PAFA.

The city of Philadelphia is also offering free metered/kiosk parking after 11 a.m. on Saturdays during the holiday season. Time limits on residential parking blocks will still be enforced, and all other parking regulations will remain in effect.

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Home-affordability watch: Price tags in midsize metros

NerdWallet is a personal finance website.

ISTOCK

Big coastal cities have some of the highest housing prices in the country. In comparison, medium-size cities are often relative bargains. But not always.

Each quarter, NerdWallet calculates home affordability for 172 metropolitan areas for which the National Association of Realtors publishes home prices. NerdWallet narrowed its focus this quarter to the medium-size metros — those with populations between 250,000 and 1 million.

The resulting 87 metro areas range in size from Yakima, Washington, with a population of 250,193, to Tulsa, Oklahoma, with 990,706. Other metro areas in this size range include Spokane, Washington; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Omaha, Nebraska; and Toledo, Ohio.

Affordability was calculated by comparing median household incomes and median home prices. An area with high incomes and low home prices is more affordable for buying a home than an area with low incomes and high home prices.

Here are the five most affordable and five least affordable medium-size metro areas in the third quarter of 2018. The rankings were compiled using data from the National Association of Realtors, the Census Bureau and NerdWallet surveys. Even medium-size cities can boast a touch of Hollywood, so we've mentioned movies and TV shows that were filmed or set in each of these.

Most affordable medium-size metro areas in Q3

1. Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, Ohio-Pennsylvania
Median home price: $97,600 (national median price: $266,900)
Median household income: $45,382
Principal and interest payment: $407 (10.8% of median monthly income)
Population: 541,926
Youngstown's metro area was the least expensive housing market among the 172 metro areas for which the National Association of Realtors collects house price data. Low house prices make Youngstown affordable, even though the typical household income is well below the national median of $60,336. Youngstown is roughly midway between Cleveland and Pittsburgh. The city was the filming location for portions of the 1978 movie "The Deer Hunter," which won the Oscar for Best Picture.

2. Peoria, Illinois
Median home price: $131,300
Median household income: $57,453
Principal and interest payment: $547 (11.4% of monthly income)
Population: 372,427
Roughly halfway between Chicago and St. Louis, this city on the Illinois River had the highest median household income among the five most affordable metro areas on this list. Parts of the 1986 Richard Pryor movie "Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life Is Calling" were filmed in Peoria.

3. Rockford, Illinois
Median home price: $131,600
Median household income: $55,484
Principal and interest payment: $549 (11.9% of monthly income)
Population: 338,291
This city about 90 miles west of Chicago was home to the Rockford Peaches, a women's professional baseball team in the 1940s and 1950s that was fictionalized in the 1992 movie "A League of Their Own."

4. Erie, Pennsylvania
Median home price: $123,200
Median household income: $50,614
Principal and interest payment: $514 (12.2% of monthly income)
Population: 274,541
Erie lies on the shore of Lake Erie, about halfway between Buffalo, New York, and Cleveland, Ohio. Portions of the bleak 2009 movie "The Road" were filmed in Presque Isle State Park, just offshore from downtown.

Least affordable medium-size metro areas in Q3

1. Honolulu, Hawaii
Median home price: $818,600
Median household income: $81,284
Principal and interest payment: $3,412 (50.4% of monthly income)
Population: 988,650
The typical household in Honolulu has a high income compared to the national median, but house prices are sky-high, too, with the median house price more than 10 times the median household income. Parts of the 2004-2010 TV series "Lost" were recorded in Honolulu.

2. Boulder, Colorado
Median home price: $604,200
Median household income: $80,834
Principal and interest payment: $2,519 (37.4% of monthly income)
Population: 322,514
Nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, about 25 miles northwest of Denver, Boulder is home to the University of Colorado. In the 1980 horror classic "The Shining," the exterior of the Torrance family's apartment was filmed in Boulder.

3. Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, Florida
Median home price: $425,000
Median household income: $66,048
Principal and interest payment: $1,772 (32.2% of monthly income)
Population: 372,880
This touristy area on Florida's southwest coast is known for its white-sand beaches and fishing in the Ten Thousand Islands. Part of the 1997 comedy "Gone Fishin,'" starring Danny Glover and Joe Pesci, was filmed on Marco Island. HOLDEN LEWIS

A version of this article was originally published by The Associated Press.

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PITTSBURGH (+115) AT COLORADO (-140)

LATEST ODDS [NFL WEEK 13]

NEW ORLEANS (-7.5) AT DALLAS

ARIZONA AT GREEN BAY (-14)

CLEVELAND AT HOUSTON (-5)

BALTIMORE AT ATLANTA (EV)

CAROLINA (-4) AT TAMPA BAY

CHICAGO (-4.5) AT NY GIANTS

BUFFALO AT MIAMI (-5)

DENVER (-3.5) AT CINCINNATI

LA RAMS (-9.5) AT DETROIT

KANSAS CITY (-15) AT OAKLAND

NY JETS AT TENNESSEE (-9)

MINNESOTA AT NEW ENGLAND (-6)

WASHINGTON AT PHILADELPHIA (-6.5)

MORE ODDS AT METROBET.US

Where could Sixers ship Markelle Fultz if he's traded?

There is a slight chance that Fultz might not be with the Sixers by the end of this season.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

Markelle Fultz's time with the Philadelphia 76ers could be up after a tumultuous stint with the franchise. GETTY IMAGES

Are Markelle Fultz's days as a member of the Philadelphia 76ers, coming to an end? It sure seems like that could be the case, especially after a recent report from Keith Pompey of Philly.com last weekend.

According to Pompey, some sources have said that Fultz is no longer in the Sixers' long-term plans and that they are considering trading him. This piece of information did not come as a surprise as The Athletic reported last week that the former first overall pick would prefer to play elsewhere.

After that story was published, Fultz's agent, Raymond Brothers immediately shot down the idea that his client wants to be traded.

"I have given no indication to Elton Brand or anyone else that Markelle would prefer to be traded." Brothers said to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski. "My focus is to get Markelle healthy. End of story."

Speaking of his health, the former University of Washington standout is reportedly expected to see specialists over the next few days per Jon Johnson of 94WIP/KYW1060.

However, where there is smoke, there is fire. While Brothers is trying the fan the smoke and fire that is coming from the Fultz smokestack, it has not stopped teams from reaching out to the Sixers.

Sam Amico of Amico-Hoops reported on Sunday night that the Cleveland Cavaliers have spoken to the Sixers about the availability of Fultz. Along with the Cavs, Chris Sheridan of GetMoreSports wrote on Monday that the Orlando Magic and Phoenix Suns are also top contenders to acquire him.

In terms of the Cavaliers, it does not make a ton of sense for them to trade for Fultz as they just drafted point guard Collin Sexton in the first round of this past summer's draft. But since they are in rebuilding mode, maybe Cleveland envisions a young backcourt of Sexton and Fultz as something they could build around.

However, when it comes to the Sixers, what could they possibly get in return from the Cavaliers for Fultz?

One option is veteran sharpshooter Kyle Korver, whom Philadelphia has been linked to since the summer. If the two teams were to swap just those players, the salaries would match perfectly.

But Fultz is worth more than Korver, despite a lackluster start to his young NBA career. Philly would have to get Korver and a first-round pick in return for the young point guard.

Would the Cavaliers or any other team be willing to give up a first-round pick for Fultz? That is a tough question to answer because the young point guard has not shown anything up to this point to boost this trade value.

Outside of the three teams mentioned above, the Suns might be actually willing to give up a first-round pick, especially since all they are missing is a starting point guard.

Before this season began, Phoenix was linked to various veteran point guards in their quest to land a starter.

Thus far, the Suns have come up short but if they could somehow land Fultz, it would be a great move to round out their young core.

With that being said, it leads us back to the same question of what could Phoenix possibly offer the Sixers? Unlike the Cavs, the Suns could hypothetically trade Josh Jackson and their second first-round pick in the 2019 NBA Draft (Milwaukee) to the Sixers for Fultz.

In this scenario, it would be a win-win for both squads as Phoenix gets themselves a young point guard, while the Sixers add a potential late first-round pick and a young 3-and-D player in Jackson.

Nevertheless, we still have a long ways to go in the Fultz saga and figuring out what his NBA future will be.

Flyers' patience with Hextall's rebuilding plan ran out

When the Philadelphia Flyers hired Ron Hextall as general manager in 2014, it signaled a drastic change in how the organization would operate.

Prior to his arrival, the front office had taken the impulsive approach to patch up holes each season by signing aging veterans to long-term contracts and through quick-fix trades, as well as with quickly replacing coaches when seasons went south.

In comparison to those failed conquests, Hextall had a calculated plan to return the Flyers to NHL supremacy.

Hextall ushered in an era of shrewd drafting and then developing young players.

It would take years, he cautioned, to complete the rebuilding project, which Hextall modeled after the one the Kings used to win two Stanley Cups. He served as assistant GM during L.A.'s rebuild.

The Flyers organization needed to accept this time frame and show – gulp – patience for everything to come to fruition.

On Monday, in a shocking development, the Flyers fired Hextall. Ironically, the reason they parted ways was that the top brass' patience reportedly ran out.

The Flyers have qualified for the playoffs just twice, losing in the first round each time, under Hextall.

With another season headed toward mediocrity, management, apparently pushed Hextall to make a blockbuster trade or coaching change, which both represented the panic decisions the organization used to make.

The Flyers fired GM and VP Ron Hextall on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

When Hextall stood firm, it's assumed he was shown the door.

It's a shame a better solution could not be worked out between the two sides. While Hextall's long-range blueprint hit some expected snags and dragged on, he was on the right path.

Hextall fixed the severe salary cap issues he inherited, turned a dormant farm system into one of the best in the league and assembled a roster that was supposed to take the next step.

His failure this offseason to add a reliable backup goalie and improve the team's woeful penalty kill handcuffed the Flyers.

Despite calls to rattle the cage from his superiors, fans, and the media, though, Hextall refused.

He was faced with a similar situation last year when the team suffered through a 10-game winless streak in November. Rather than make a drastic move, he let the players and coaching staff work it out.

The team responded by winning six straight, finished with one of the top records in the NHL over the final four-plus months, and qualified for the playoffs.

The turnaround happened because Hextall showed patience. The organization should have extended him more of the same virtue. ERIC GOLDSTEIN

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Participants will be compensated for their time.

Please contact the Penn Center for Women's Behavioral Wellness for further information about this research study.

(215) 746-1158
https://is.gd/PCWBWnicotineresearch

Penn Medicine

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO INVOLUNTARILY TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE

In Re: Adoption of Baby Girl Farlow, a minor. File No. 86340 of 2018 in the Orphans Court of Berks County, Pennsylvania

To: Any Unknown John Doe, or Anyone Claiming Paternity of Baby Girl Farlow born on June 21, 2018. The mother of said child is Brittany L. Farlow.

A Petition has been filed asking the Court to put an end to all rights you have to your child, Baby Girl Farlow. The Court has set a hearing to consider ending your rights to your child. That hearing will be held in the Courtroom designated for Judge James M. Bucci, Berks County Courthouse, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601, on December 19, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. You have a right to attend the hearing. If you fail to attend the scheduled hearing, the Hearing will go on without you and the Court may end your rights to your child without your being present. You have a right to be represented at the Hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer, cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

LAWYERS REFERRAL SERVICE OF THE BERKS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
544-546 Court Streets
READING, PA 19601
Call (610) 375-4591

BARBARA B. CASEY, ESQUIRE
340 MORGANTOWN RD., SUITE 2,
READING, PA 19611
PHONE NO. (610) 376-9742

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, October term, 2018, No. 4240.

Notice is hereby given that on November 5th, 2018 the petition of: Kyle Addison Perlman, praying for a decree to change his name to: Kyle Addison Lyons. The Court has fixed court date December 14th 2018, at 10:30 AM, in Room No. 691 for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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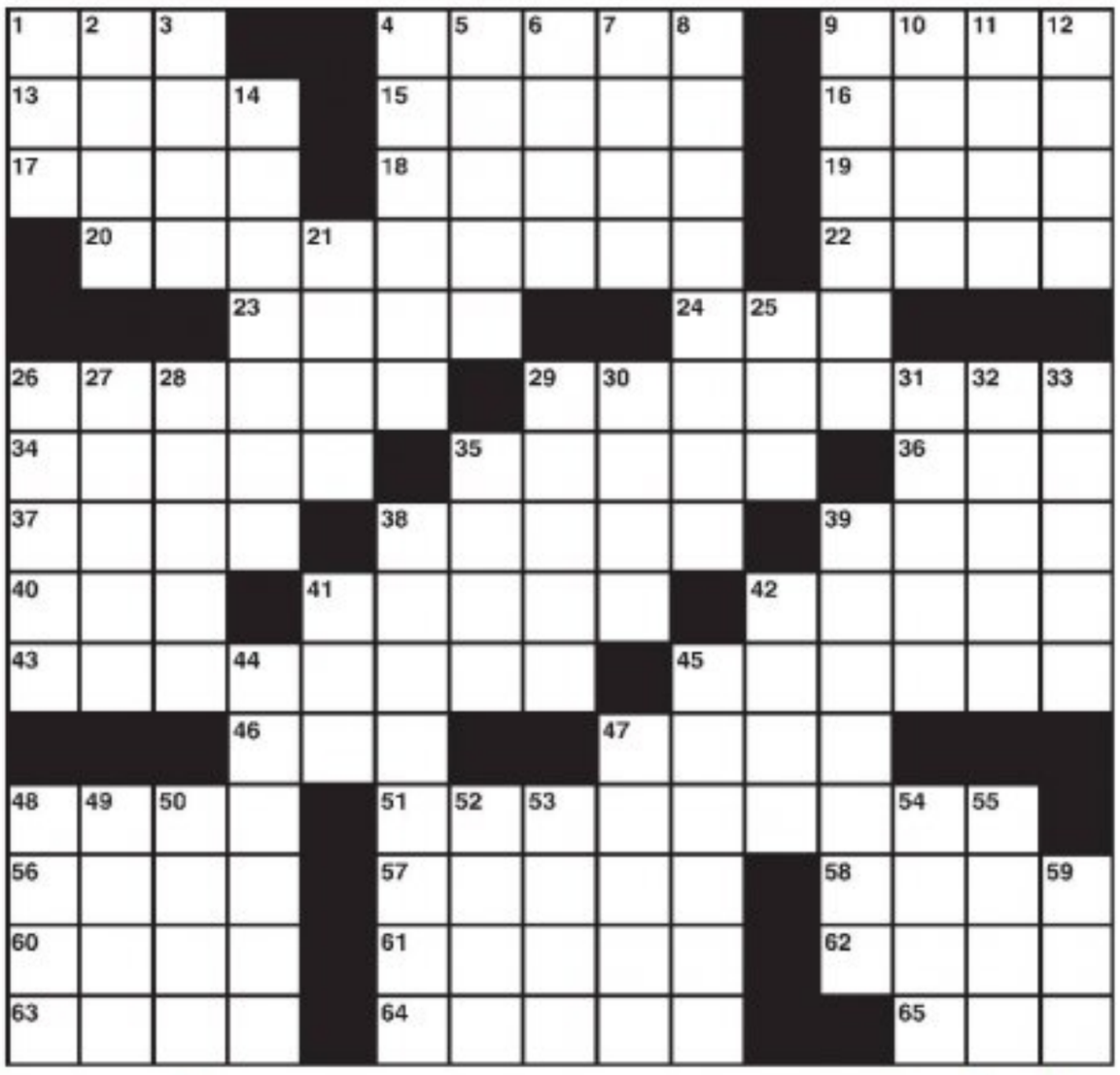

ACROSS

1 Cow's comment
4 Plenty; more than enough
9 Georgia __; univ. in Atlanta
13 __ roast; cut of beef
15 Hay bundles
16 Sore
17 Recipe verb
18 Exhausted
19 Actor Everett
20 Arouse; stir up
22 Ripped
23 Deep mud
24 Inventor Whitney
26 Go higher
29 The Mamas & the Papas member
34 Knight's weapon
35 Sulks
36 Opening
37 Afternoon socials
38 Curtsied
39 Skimpy skirt
40 McMahon & Marinaro
41 Disappeared
42 Free-for-all
43 Kept
45 Cruise ships
46 Floral wire service
47 __ belt; car safety feature
48 Surgery memento
51 Purse or hat
56 "O __, All Ye Faithful"
57 Mealtimes
58 Genuine
60 King toppers
61 Cacophony
62 Indira's robe
63 Prepare spuds
64 Actor Tim
65 Presidential monogram

DOWN

1 Fem. title
2 Pitcher's delights
3 Leave out
4 Ridiculous
5 Sugar __; New York's state tree
6 Entreaty
7 Church season
8 Highly honored
9 Stratagem
10 Resound
11 Scorch
12 "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. __"
14 Elementary textbooks
21 Obey
25 __ Cruces, NM
26 Fall bloom
27 Uppsala resident
28 Seashore
29 Did a lawn chore
30 Imitated
31 Nimble
32 Less nuts
33 Secret agents
35 A la __; served with ice cream
38 Colorful scarf
39 Trusted counselors
41 In good shape
42 Hamm and Farrow
44 Once again
45 Diminish
47 In a __; sort of
48 Con game
49 __-Cola
50 Singer and actor Ed __
52 Weather forecast
53 Bedspring
54 __ up on; study about
55 Linear measure
59 Be dishonest

metro.us/wordsearch

P	U	D	N	A	T	S	D	W	E
O	N	C	M	Q	L	T	E	O	Z
L	A	O	L	I	V	E	R	H	P
I	M	L	J	T	M	W	S	S	E
T	R	B	O	F	O	A	A	Y	A
I	E	E	H	M	K	R	T	L	B
C	T	R	N	K	E	T	I	I	O
S	T	T	R	O	P	E	R	A	D
N	E	W	S	C	O	M	E	D	Y
B	L	A	R	T	N	E	C	M	L

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Category: Occupation

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L	T	A	T	G
A	E	R	E	A

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metro.us/sudoku

	7				4			3
9	1		3			7	8	
	3	2						
8	9			4	6		2	
	4		2	3	1		6	
	2		5	9			4	7
						6	3	
	6	9			3		7	5
3			1				9	

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O	N	C	E	■	T	E	P	E	E	■	L	O	V	E
A	V	I	D	■	R	E	E	X	A	M	I	N	E	S
D	Y	E	■	B	I	N	D	■	■	E	V	E	R	T
■	■	N	E	E	D	Y	■	■	D	D	E	■	■	■
R	A	T	T	L	E	■	■	H	E	A	R	S	T	■
E	D	I	C	T	■	T	R	I	A	L	■	H	U	B
D	I	S	H	■	P	O	U	N	D	■	H	O	B	O
D	E	T	■	G	R	U	N	T	■	G	A	R	B	O
■	U	S	U	R	E	R	■	■	M	A	R	T	Y	R
■	■	■	R	A	Y	■	■	B	U	R	K	E	■	■
A	S	W	A	N	■	■	S	E	R	B	■	N	F	L
C	H	A	N	D	E	L	I	E	R	■	T	I	R	E
T	O	F	U	■	B	E	R	R	A	■	O	N	E	S
S	E	T	S	■	B	O	S	S	Y	■	A	G	E	S

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